

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

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R 081036Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1910

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION USNATO

EUCOM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, ASEC, TU

SUBJ: STUDENT DISTURBANCES

REF: (A) ANKARA 007, (B) ISTANBUL 4318, DEC. 31, 1975

(C) ANKARA 9404, DEC. 26, 1975

1. STUDENT DISTURBANCES HAVE CONTINUED INTO THE NEW YEAR  
ALONG WITH POLITICAL CHARGES AND COUNTERCHARGES AS TO THE  
RESPONSIBILITY FOR THESE INCIDENTS. FOLLOWING THE LATEST  
EVENTS, SEVERAL SCHOOLS HAVE BEEN TEMPORARILY CLOSED BY  
THEIR ADMINISTRATIONS OR BOYCOTTED BY STUDENTS.

2. RECENT VIOLENCE IN ANKARA HAS INCLUDED CLASHES BETWEEN  
"PROGRESSIVES" AND "COMMANDOS" INVOLVING STUDENTS AT

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MIDDLE EAST TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY (METU), HACETTEPE UNIVERSITY,

ANKARA UNIVERSITY'S FACULTIES OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, EDUCATION, AND VETERINARY SCIENCE, THE ANKARA MEN'S TECHNICAL TEACHERS SCHOOL, AND THE ANKARA STATE ENGINEERING AND ARCHITECTURE ACADEMY. ADDITIONALLY THERE HAVE BEEN INCIDENTS IN MANY OTHER PARTS OF TURKEY, INCLUDING TRABZON, ELAZIG, DIYARBAKIR, GAZIANTEP, ESKISEHIR, AND ISTANBUL (REF. B), WHICH CONFIRM THAT STUDENT VIOLENCE IS NOT RPT NOT ABATING AND THAT IT CONTINUES TO INVOLVE SECONDARY SCHOOLS AS WELL AS UNIVERSITY STUDENTS. FURTHER COMPLICATING THE EDUCATION SCENE, STUDENTS OF ALL EIGHT TURKISH EDUCATION INSTITUTES (TRAINING COLLEGES FOR JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS) HAVE BEGUN A NATION-WIDE BOYCOTT AND HAVE PRESENTED A LIST OF DEMANDS INCLUDING RECOGNITION OF THE EDUCATION INSTITUTES AS EQUIVALENT TO THE STATE ACADEMIES.

3. AMONG THE NUMEROUS INCIDENTS OF CLASHES BETWEEN RIGHTIST AND LEFTIST STUDENT EXTREMISTS, ONE WHICH RECEIVED PARTICULAR ATTENTION IN THE PRESS WAS THE REPUTED ATTACK JANUARY 3 BY SO-CALLED "COMMANDOS" ON BUSES TAKING STUDENTS TO EXAMINATIONS AT METU (WHERE STUDENTS ARE NOW COMPLETING A SPECIAL MAKE-UP TERM FOR CLASS TIME LOST THROUGH LAST YEAR'S BOYCOTTS). ON JANUARY 7, LEFTIST STUDENTS MADE A SHOW OF STRENGTH WHEN THOUSANDS ATTENDED MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR A HACETTEPE STUDENT WHO DIED FROM GUNSHOT WOUNDS SUFFERED IN A RECENT INCIDENT. A "REVOLUTIONARY OATH" WAS TAKEN, THE DECEASED'S BROTHER (A METU STUDENT) SPOKE TO THE CROWD, AND THE CASKET WAS PARADED FROM HACETTEPE TO THE POLITICAL SCIENCE FACULTY. THE DEAD STUDENT'S FATHER, A MEMBER OF THE REPUBLICAN PEOPLES PARTY (RPP) AFYON PROVINCIAL COUNCIL, ATTENDED. ACCORDING TO SOME PRESS REPORTS, THE MURDERED STUDENT HAD BEEN IMPRISONED FOR POLITICAL CRIMES IN 1972 DURING THE MARTIAL LAW PERIOD BUT HAD BEEN RELEASED AFTER THE MAY 1974 MANESTY.

4. RECENT COMMENT ON THE CONTINUING STUDENT DISORDERS HAS INCLUDED:

A. DECEMBER 29 THE INTER-UNIVERSITY BOARD, THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COUNCIL OF UNIVERSITY RECTORS AND STATE ACADEMY PRESIDENTS, CALLED FOR THE NATIONALIST FRONT GOVERNMENT AND THE OPPOSITION RPP TO COOPERATE IN RESOLVING TURKEY'S UNIVERSITY PROBLEMS AND STUDENT UNREST. (RPP CHAIRMAN ECEVIT STATED HIS AGREEMENT WITH THE INTER-UNIVERSITY BOARD ON DECEMBER 30.)

B. DECEMBER 30 THE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION OF MIDDLE

EAST TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY (METU-DER) CLAIMED THAT "COMMANDOS" WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVOCATIONS AGAINST METU STUDENTS.

C. THREE PARLIAMENTARIANS (GENC, ALPASLAN AND ANADLO) ISSUED JANUARY 3 A STATEMENT WHICH IMPLIED RESPONSIBILITY ON THE PART OF THE NATIONALIST FRONT GOVERNMENT IN THE ATTACKS ON METU BUSES.

D. RPP'S YOUTH BRANCH JANUARY 4 ACCUSED THE NATIONALIST FRONT GOVERNMENT OF PLOTTING TO CONTROL METU AND BLAMED "FASCISTS" FOR DISTURBING EDUCATION AT METU.

E. JANUARY 5 RPP CHAIRMAN ECEVIT ASSERTED (PARA 6, REF. A) THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR STUDENT UNREST.

F. JANUARY 6 THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE NATIONALIST ACTION PARTY (NAP) DECLARED THAT "AS METU HAS BEEN UNDER THE CONTROL OF MARXIST MILITANTS FOR A YEAR AND A HALF, NORMAL INSTRUCTION AND LEARNING HAS BEEN MADE IMPOSSIBLE DESPITE ALL THE EFFORTS OF THE UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION."

G. ON JANUARY 7 THE PRESIDENT OF THE RIGHTIST IDEALIST HEARTHS ASSOCIATION CHARACTERIZED THE DEATH OF THE HACETTEPE STUDENT AS "THE CONSEQUENCE OF THE STRUGGLE BETWEEN SOVIET COMMUNISM AND MAOISM."

5. THE POLICE HAVE NOT RPT NOT AS YET APPREHENDED ANY SUSPECTS IN THE MURDER OF THE HACETTEPE STUDENT MENTIONED IN PARA 3. ON JANUARY 4 IT WAS REPORTED BY THE PRESS THAT TWO STUDENTS HAD BEEN TAKEN INTO CUSTODY IN THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CASE OF THE "PROGRESSIVE" JOURNALISM STUDENT WHO HAD BEEN KILLED DECEMBER 24. ONE OF THE SUSPECTS WAS SUBSEQUENTLY RELEASED, THE OTHER ARRAIGNED BY THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR.

6. COMMENT: STUDENT VIOLENCE AND ACCOMPANYING POLITICAL RHETORIC APPEAR TO BE ON THE UPSWING. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIONS AND THE GOT CAN ACT FORCEFULLY TO CALM THE SITUATION. SUCCESS BY THE POLICE IN BRINGING TO JUSTICE THE GUILTY PARTIES IN RECENT TERRORIST MURDERS WOULD BE AN IMPORTANT FIRST STEP.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Concepts:** CIVIL DISORDERS, STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, CASUALTIES, ARRESTS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 08 JAN 1976  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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